

concl. 1

thereby causing a selected detector to combine [information] for transmission to said control processor information of said control signal and detector identification information, said control processor to transmit control information to said switch, and said switch to input data of said selected transmission to at least one selected processor.

In claim 21, line 8, add -- , -- after "programming."

Please cancel claim 23 and substitute the following amended claim 23.

23. (amended) A method of [processing] inputting data in a system that consists of a first input means, at least one intermediate input means, and a plurality of processors consisting of the steps of:

transmitting a plurality of data units, [causing memory means associated with a selected intermediate input means to record a selected data unit, and]

causing memory means associated with a selected intermediate input means to record a selected data unit, and

causing said memory means to transmit selected information of said selected data unit at a selected time,

thereby to cause said intermediate input means to input data of said selected data unit to at least one selected processor at said selected time and cause said processor to process said input data.

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cont.

Please cancel claim 24 and substitute the following amended claim 24.)

24. (amended) A method of [processing] inputting data in a system that consists of a first input means, at least one intermediate input means, and a plurality of processors consisting of the steps of:

transmitting a plurality of data units,

causing recorder means associated with a selected intermediate input means to record a selected data unit, and

causing a switch associated with said intermediate input means to connect the output of a player associated with said recorder to at least one selected processor at a selected time,

[thereby to cause said selected processor to process data of said selected data unit at said selected time.unit,]

thereby to enable said intermediate input means to input data of said selected data unit to said selected processor and cause said processor to process said input data.

In claim 25, line 4, add -- one matrix switch, -- after "detector,".

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Claims 16, 17, 19, 21, 23-25 have been amended to clarify the claim language. No substantive amendment is made.

In the Examiner's Action mailed March 22, 1991, the examiner rejected claims 1-26 in the application on grounds of obviousness-type double patenting. The examiner contended that the invention defined in claims 1-26 is an obvious modification or variation of the invention defined in claims 1-25 of United States Patent No. 4,965,825 to John C. Harvey et al. (Harvey '825).

In paragraph 1 of the office action, the examiner stated that "all the features of the present claims are found in the claims of the patent." Applicants respectfully traverse the examiner's rejection. The examiner's assertion that all features of the claims in the present application are found in the claims of the Harvey '825 patent is simply not correct. Claims 1-26 in the present application include features not found in any of the Harvey '825 claims. Moreover, the invention recited in claims 1-26 is patentably distinct from the invention claimed by the Harvey '825 patent. In re Longi, 759 F.2d 887, 892, 225 U.S.P.Q. 645,